

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2169

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

UNCLAS LONDON 09492

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UK, EEC

SUBJECT: PLP DECISIONS ON EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

REF: LONDON 8799

1. PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY (PLP) MET JUNE 18 TO RE-SOLVE VARIOUS QUESTIONS CONCERNING ITS PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (REFTEL). FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN: PLP 18-MEMBER DELEGATION WILL BE COMPOSED OF 12 MPS AND 6 PEERS; MEMBERS OF DELEGATION WILL BE JOINTLY SELECTED BY CHIEF WHIP BOB MELLISH AND PLP CHAIRMAN
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SUBJECT TO PLP

VETO; DELEGATE SELECTION PROCESS WILL BE REVIEWED BY PLP IN 12 MONTHS; AND LABOR DELEGATION WILL SEEK AFFILIATION WITH EUROPEAN SOCIALIST GROUP. QUESTION OF DELEGATION LEADERSHIP WAS NOT DECIDED, BUT IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT DELEGATION WILL ELECT ITS OWN LEADER.

2. COMMENT: MPS REPRESENTING BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT-WINGS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN ARE GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH OUTCOME. ONLY SIGNIFICANT SOURCES OF COMPLAINT HAVE BEEN NUMBER OF PEERS INCLUDED IN DELEGATION AND DECISION TO JOIN SOCIALIST GROUP, WHICH SOME MPS BELIEVE WAS PREMATURE. AS TO FORMER POINT, WHIP'S OFFICE HAS RULED THAT LABOR MPS CAN ONLY BE PAIRED AGAINST CONSERVATIVES, THEREBY LIMITING LABOR HOUSE OF COMMONS REPRESENTATION TO NUMBER OF TORY MPS.

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